

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4705
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
PHYSIOTHERAPY FACILITIES
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that due to increased road accidents and other health disabilities, number of cases of disabled who can be restored mobility are in the increase;
- (b) if so, the estimated number thereof for the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government are also aware that due to lack of adequate physiotherapy facilities in Government and private hospitals and in Institute on Physically Handicapped, New Delhi the patients from weaker section of society go unattended; and
- (d) if so, steps being taken to set up physiotherapy centers in all institutions and provide assistance to low income and unemployed persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) & (b) No such facts/studies or estimates have so far been brought to the notice of Government

(c) & (d) Of the six National Institutes/apex Institutions under the aegis of this Ministry in Disability Sector, three National Institutes are engaged mainly for welfare of persons with physical disabilities i.e., National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta and Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi. These institutes provide, inter alia, facilities for rehabilitation including physiotherapy of persons with disabilities particularly patients from weaker section of society. The Government also reimburses expenditure towards free beds, which are meant for poor and indigent, to the Indian Spinal Injury Centre, New Delhi.

The Government has, in addition, launched major initiatives with an objective to provide rehabilitative services to the persons with disabilities. Over one hundred districts have been identified for providing primary composite rehabilitation services including physiotherapy. A four tier scheme namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been approved in the State sector for implementation in order to create infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities. A Central Sector Scheme has been approved for setting up Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) for Persons with Disabilities in different parts of the country to provide services for different kinds of disabilities and for creating infrastructure for training and manpower development. A centrally sponsored scheme for setting up of four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for Persons with Spinal Injuries and other Orthopaedic Disabilities has also been approved.